

384 and 385. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

CONGRATULATING THE
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GATORS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Florida Gators for winning the 2007 men's basketball NCAA championship title.

After a hard fought season and tournament, the Florida Gator men's basketball team proved victorious, on April 2, 2007, with a dazzling 84-75 triumph over the Ohio State University Buckeyes.

I want to extend special congratulations to Florida's head coach, Billy Donovan, who trained this team to be the best in the country. All of the athletes are shining stars for the university and deserve our highest praise.

This year, the men's basketball team made history by becoming the first school to win back to back championships since 1992. The Florida Gators also maintain a record as the only university in history to win simultaneous championships in both men's basketball and football.

Florida's academic reputation is stellar, our sports teams are number one and our fans are like none other.

Madam Speaker, it is great to be a Florida Gator! Congratulations to the students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the University of Florida. Go Gators!

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAY EAGEN

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Jay Eagen, this body's Chief Administrative Officer, upon his retirement. Mr. Eagen has served with distinction in this executive capacity since July 31, 1997, and has been in continual service to the House since 1982. As Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Eagen was responsible for managing this body's support services, finances, procurement, and information technology.

Mr. Eagen faced head-on the rapid rise of computer technology in the 1990s that forever changed the worlds of business and government. Through Mr. Eagen's persistence the House's information systems were modernized and placed at the cutting edge of public sector information services.

Mr. Eagen's efforts to modernize the House also extended to financial accounting and auditing. Before his tenure as CAO, the House's accounting systems were found to be byzantine and indecipherable. During Mr. Eagen's tenure, the House has received eight consecutive "clean opinions" on its financial statements.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Eagen, a dedicated public servant who always operated with the highest standards of professionalism and re-

spect for this House. His commitment to improving this institution's services have made a critical difference as we meet the demands of a changing marketplace and in meeting the American public's desire for information and transparency. This body will miss Mr. Eagen's fairness and bipartisanship as well as his spirit of innovation.

PREAKNESS DELIVERS THREE
FLORIDA CHAMPIONS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to announce that the winner of the recent Preakness Stakes, along with those horses that placed and showed (came in second and third, respectively), all have strong ties to stables in my district.

Street Sense and Hard Spun, who placed second and third respectively, were both broken and received elementary training at Ocala training centers. As if this were not enough cause for celebration, Curlin, the victor of the Preakness Stakes, is partially owned by Padua Stable, also in Ocala. Satish Sanan, a computer CEO, founded Padua Stable in 1997, choosing the Ocala location for its pristine pastures and renowned reputation among horse enthusiasts.

Curlin's story is especially unique. Though entering the competition for the Kentucky Derby after only three career starts, Curlin was an unlikely early favorite due to his victory in the Arkansas Derby in which he crushed eight foes and won by 10½ lengths.

Shirley Cunningham, Jr., a lawyer hailing from Georgetown, is one of Curlin's former owners, and it is from his family history that the horse's name is derived. Cunningham's great-grandfather, Charlie Curlin, is a legend in the area in and around Trigg County, Kentucky due to his service on behalf of the U.S. Colored Troops battalion of the Union Army in 1864. Curlin, a freed slave, represented the hallmark American ideal of service to one's country, fighting nobly to make freedom a reality for all United States citizens. Thus, in winning the Preakness Stakes, and putting forth a gallant effort in the Kentucky Derby, Curlin the horse is carrying the family history, serving as a reminder to all of the benefits of perseverance and faith in one's cause.

Though Curlin, Street Sense, and Hard Spun are more prominent examples of success derived from Ocala stables, the city's strong reputation in equine breeding and training is by no means new or rare. Ocala, within Marion County, is considered the "Horse Capital of the World" by the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association. In 1995, Ocala was named an All-America-City winner, due largely in part to its reputation for expansive and well-kept pastureland. More than 450 farms and training centers in the Marion County area are devoted to breeding, training, and showing breeds such as the thoroughbred, Arabian, quarter horses, and even draft horses. The USDA's Census of Agriculture reported that Marion led all U.S. counties in total number of horses and ponies in residence in 1997, cut-off year for the 5-year census. Furthermore, the county ranked third nationally

(behind two counties in Kentucky) in total value of horses sold. Horses are big business in Marion County. Between 45 and 50 different breeds are represented in the area. Nearly 29,000 residents are employed in the county's thoroughbred industry alone. Florida thoroughbreds finish first in 20 percent of the foremost stakes races in the U.S. and are counted among Triple Crown, Breeders' Cup, Belmont Stakes, Preakness and Kentucky Derby winners. The thoroughbred industry's economic impact on the state is considered to be in excess of \$1 billion dollars annually, and the exciting horse sales at the Ocala Breeder's Sales Complex run into the millions.

One cannot visit Marion County without becoming immediately aware of the impact the horse industry has on the area. This is currently evidenced by the enthusiasm exhibited by many of my constituents in having not one, but three horses sweep the top spots in the Preakness Stakes. I believe that this much-celebrated victory will serve to further illustrate the excellence of stables and breeders in Marion County and Ocala, and encourage others in the industry to consider the area as a future home for both their horses and their families.

Finally, I am honored to be the new cochair of the Congressional Horse Caucus, and I look forward to cochairing with Representative BEN CHANDLER of Kentucky. Many may not realize the magnitude of the equine industry and its importance to our national, state and local economies. It is a diverse industry, involving business, agriculture, sport, entertainment, gaming and recreation, and we hope Members will join the Caucus.

By the way: I have stood on this House Floor three times in the past year to herald national victories from the University of Florida in my district—twice for Men's Basketball championships, and January for the 2006 Bowl Championship in football. I suspect my colleagues will begin to find me immodest if I keep bragging and offering resolutions on my winning constituent athletes, both human and equine.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT
GRADUATES OF WOODCLIFF
LAKE'S D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Woodcliff Lake Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Dorchester School. More than 100 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Woodcliff Lake, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship: